

First Washington Driver License

After moving into Washington State, you must apply for a driver license within 30 days of becoming a resident. You may apply for a driver license at any Licensing Services Office (LSO).

Resident Driving Privileges - A resident of Washington, driving a motor vehicle on public roadways in Washington State, must have either a valid Washington State driver license or instruction permit in their possession.

Non-Resident Driving Privileges - A resident of another state, who is at least 16 years old, must be in possession of a current driver license from their home state. Also eligible are residents of other states who are at least 15 years old and in possession of a valid instruction permit issued by their home state. The instruction permit is valid only when a licensed driver with at least five years driving experience is seated beside them.

A residence could be where:

- you establish a permanent home in the state;
- you are registered to vote;
- you receive state benefits;
- you apply for any state license; or
- seek in-state tuition fees.

Requirements for Obtaining a Driver License:

- Be at least 16 years of age. If you are under 18, you must have your Certificate of Completion from an approved driver education course; and
- If you are under 18, your parent or guardian must sign a Parental Authorization form. Parents must provide proof of their identity and relationship to you. The Parental Authorization form must be either notarized or be signed in the presence of a Licensing Service Representative. The customer must present this form prior to both the written knowledge examination and the drive test.
- Provide positive proof of identification and age.
- Provide photo identification for issuance of a photo driver license or identification card.

- Complete an application that includes physical and mental qualifications, previous driver licenses, convictions of traffic offenses, along with suspensions, revocations or cancellations of prior driver licenses;
- Disclosure of your Social Security number (SSN) is mandatory for all license applications to help enforce child support laws. Your SSN may be used for identification purposes and is kept on file at DOL (42 USC 405 and 666(a), RCW 26.23.150). Disclosure of your SSN for instruction permit and identification card applications is voluntary (WAC 308-104-014). Your Social Security Number will not appear on your driver license.
- Pay \$35 for your first five-year Washington driver license (\$10 for your examination and \$25 for your license). An additional \$10 fee is paid for each expired application or test failure.
Please note - only cash or a personal check can be accepted by the Department as payment for licenses or renewals.
- Take a knowledge (written) test about the rules of the road and road sign recognition. The knowledge test must be completed prior to scheduling the drive test. Please contact the licensing office to schedule the drive test.
Knowledge testing is discontinued one half hour before the closure of business in each licensing office.
- Take a vision test and demonstration of color recognition.
- Provide a vehicle for the drive test. An unsafe or illegally equipped vehicle may not be used for the test. Proof of vehicle insurance must be provided. Unlicensed drivers cannot use rental vehicles for the drive test.
- Demonstrate safe and skillful driving during the drive test. *Note:* The drive test may be waived if you have a valid driver license from another state and meet all other medical, vision and physical requirements. The drive test will be required of applicants with licenses from all other countries, including Canada.

All valid licenses and instructions permits from other states and countries, as well as Washington instruction permits must be presented. Canadian licenses and out-of-state licenses will

be invalidated and returned upon issuance of your temporary Washington license.

Your new Washington driver license will be processed and mailed to you within 5 days. However, in the event of equipment failure it may take longer. If you have not received your new license within 20 days, please contact the Department at (360) 902-4071 or contact the Photo Return Desk.

INS Document Information

The Alien Registration Card, I-551, is a valid primary identification document.

The Employment Authorization for Legalization Applicant's Card, I-688A and I-688B, have limited acceptability. Other documents, such as those listed below, must be presented for consideration as proof of your identity.

- Birth certificate or registration cards. *Note:* If used as the sole document establishing the legal name or date of birth, a certified copy of the birth or registration certificate is required.
- Social security card.
- Certificates of marriage or divorce decrees.
- Voter registration.
- Foreign passport.
- Government issued business and professional licenses.
- Vehicle registration certificates and titles.
- School transcripts and/or records.
- Employee identification cards issued by major employers.
- Credit or financial contracts.
- Bank account statements showing both name and address.
- Internal Revenue Service documents.

If you have specific questions about the acceptability of identification in your possession, call your nearest Licensing Services Office.

Washington Identification Card

The Department of Licensing issues photo identification cards to non-drivers for a fee of \$15.00 for an original. Duplicate identification cards are \$15.00. You must show the same identification as required for a driver license.

Driver License Renewal

Your first license will expire on your fifth birthday after it is issued. The first license period may be less than five years.

Your license may be renewed at any Licensing Services Office (LSO). To renew your license, you must appear in person and pass a vision test. If your license has a corrective lenses restriction, and you would like to have it removed, you may request that your vision be tested without corrective lenses. If your vision meets licensing vision standards without correction, the restriction will be removed.

You may be required to take other exams if the Licensing Services Representative determines that it is necessary.

The fee for a five year license renewal is \$25. A \$10 penalty will be charged if you renew your license more than 60 days after it has expired.

Licenses may be renewed as much as 90 days ahead of their expiration date. If you have plans that will take you out of state for an extended period, earlier renewals are also possible. Inquiries on early renewals can be addressed at your local license services office.

To qualify for a renewal while out of state you must be out of state more than 12 months from the date your license expired. If less than 12 months you receive an extension only.

Please visit our driver license mail in Extension Program page for more information.

Instruction Permits

You are eligible to apply for a driver instruction permit at the age of 15 provided you are enrolled in an accredited traffic safety education course. You may also apply at the age of 15 1/2 for a permit without being enrolled in a class, but are then required to take the written driving test to prove you are capable of understanding the fundamentals of driving and the rules of the road. You must hold an instruction permit for not less than 6 months before a driver license can be issued.

When applying for a driver instruction permit, you will be required to supply proof of identification. Usually this includes a birth certificate to establish parental relationship. If under 18 years of age, you must also have a consent form signed by your parent/guardian.

The permit is valid for one year and one renewal is allowed.
The fee for an instruction permit is \$15.00.

Motorcycle Endorsement

The Department of Licensing also issues motorcycle permits and motorcycle endorsements. Washington law requires that all motorcycle operators pass the motorcycle knowledge and skill tests. These tests are in addition to the regular automobile driver license tests. However, if you have completed an approved basic motorcycle rider course, you may bring your completion card to any Licensing Services Office (LSO) within 90 days, take the knowledge test, and the skill test will be waived.

Address Change

You may change your address of record in person at your local Licensing Services Office (LSO) or in writing to the Department. Written requests should include your full name, date of birth, Washington driver license number, Washington vehicle plate numbers, and your, new address, and be mailed to

Department of Licensing
Driver Responsibility
P.O. Box 9030
Olympia, WA 98507-9030

Download additional information and the Address Change form.

Name Of Record

Once the original license or identification record is established, a customer's name of record will be changed if acceptable documentation is presented. The fee for this transaction is \$10.00. In addition to driver licenses, passports, military identification, Immigration identification cards, federal of state issued ID cards, the following evidence can be presented to establish or change the name of record.

1. Marriage certificate or license
2. Court order
3. Divorce decree
4. Original birth certificate
5. Other court or legal actions filed and/or registered with the responsible governmental agency of the recording

country, province, state, county or city.

How To Get A Copy Of Your Washington Driving Record

You may obtain a copy of your own driving record from any Licensing Services Office (LSO). There are three formats of driving records available: 3-year record for insurance purposes, full record for employment purposes and a complete record. The fee for each record is \$5.00.

Download additional information and the Abstract of Driving Record Application .

A complete record will be provided to school districts for school bus drivers.

Mandatory Insurance

If you operate a motor vehicle registered in this state, you must have liability insurance and carry with you an insurance identification card verifying you have a valid vehicle liability insurance policy. Proof of vehicle insurance will be required before a drive test is administered. Drivers of government vehicles, motorcycles and common or contract carrier vehicles are exempt from this insurance requirement.

Identity Theft

Should you become a victim of identity theft the Department offers a few services to help our customers. You may also want to visit the Federal Trade Commission's internet site for ways to protect yourself.

